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From: Martin, Dan
Sent: Friday, November 26, 2004 11:27 AM
To: Axline, Lisa
Cc: Martin, Dan
Subject: MDT Comments on the Tongue River Railroad Company Inc. Draft Supplemental EIS - Western Alignment

Lisa:

Our comments on the subject EIS are as follows:

Recommended Changes: Page 4-38, Affected Environment - Transportation and Safety, lines 24 thru 28 should read as follows:

Secondary highways are eligible for State and Federal construction funding, and all gravel surface Secondary Highways are maintained by the counties.
Most paved Secondary Highways are maintained by the State of Montana. They are functionally classified as rural collector..... The recommended changes are in Bold print.

Comments/Concerns:

Sidings and Passing tracks are not mentioned in relation to at-grade crossings. Sidings should not extend through or be in close proximity to any at-grade crossings. Where possible, passing tracks should not go through grade crossings. If passing tracks are required through an at-grade crossing the passing track should terminate at a location where there is sufficient room to store a train past the grade crossing. Additionally, the train should be far enough from the grade crossing to allow sufficient sight distance down the track for a motorist to detect a second train.

One other area of concern is the close proximity of the two public road at-grade crossings near the end of the proposed Western Alignment as shown on figure 4-10, page 4-130. The short distance between the two crossings certainly appears to be doubling train/vehicle exposure. Hopefully, there will be an engineering solution that can reduce the impact of this situation.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at 444-6303. Thanks

Dan Martin